

The Intelligencer.

SUBSCRIPTION \$1.00 PER YEAR
IN ADVANCE.

Entered at the Lexington postoffice as
second class mail matter.

SATURDAY, JAN. 10, 1903.

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BEASTS.

In a very thoughtful and highly interesting Sunday editorial on "Individualism and National Morals," the Kansas City Star marvels that a nation in which there is so high an average of mental acuteness and so high an average of moral rectitude, taking the people individually, should be so destitute of the moral sense in their organized social capacity. The Star is so deeply impressed with this reflection that it even goes far enough to question the wisdom of a form of government in which the moral responsibility for social actions is so widely distributed.

The particular question to which these general reflections lead up is the tariff outrage. The Star is confident that eighty per cent of the people could easily see—do now actually see—that our protective tariff is not merely unjust favoritism, not merely rank class legislation, not merely legalized pilfering, but in its moral aspect is on a par with train robbery and safe-blowing. But the question cannot be separated from party politics, and hence, says the Star, the people are willing in their social capacity to assume responsibility for a moral outrage which individually hardly a one would be guilty of.

This is by no means a new idea. It is older than party politics. It is as old as social order. Solomon spoke against consenting with a multitude to do evil, and in the dreams of Daniel and in the apocalyptic vision of St. John nations are ever represented under the symbol of beasts. And they are beasts. The standard of national morality or of party morality by no means corresponds to the standard of the constituent individuals. Not five per cent of the people of Germany would think of collecting their bad personal debts of doubtful validity with a shotgun, if they had no other recourse. And our beloved Monroe Doctrine in its modern form and meaning, if reduced to the case of a few petty land holders and a few big landlords living on opposite sides of a county road, might appear to many of us in a very different moral light.

It is perfectly natural that this should be so. And it is the failure to recognize the naturalness of it and the inevitableness of it that is responsible for the short-sighted philosophy of anarchism. Personal and interpersonal morality antedate the social sense of countless ages. They must always outstrip the latter in degree of development as they do chronological precedence. But we are making headway in this particular. Nationally we are beasts still, but not beasts of the jungle, as we once were.

JOHN SHARPE WILLIAMS.

It has been predicted with much show of reason that Williams of Mississippi will succeed Richardson as leader of the minority on the floor of the house. Under Richardson's leadership there has been too much tomfoolery, too much sparring for points. Williams is a man for a different type—in fact, it is doubtful if he is not of too antique a type for these changed times. A well-to-do planter, thoroughly and soundly educated, an idealist, constitutionally religious, serious, philosophic, not unlike the matchless Lamar, but less reclusive, John Sharpe Williams would have taken high place in any congress fifty years ago. But we have fallen on different times. Congress is now a convention of agents of jarring and discordant interests, in the midst of whose clamor and chicanery the sense of moral orientation is lost. And this very sense of moral orientation is Williams' strongest point. Read through the weary, wretched debate upon the Philippine question last winter and you will find that the one eternal truth expressed, the one sincere note sounded, the one warm, passionate appeal made, which could only come from a heart in which ideals are cherished with a noble devotion, was that of John Sharpe Williams.

The democratic party has never been a party of ideals. Its founder and its only great leaders have been idealists. Our magna charta is the product of the radical political idealism of our forefathers. The oligar-

chy of protected wealth and the party of entrenched interests may win victories in the interest of private or sectional plunder, but the party of the people can never triumph except in the cause of eternal truths. In such a cause no better leader could be found than Williams.

THE INDIANOLA AFFAIR.

The post office trouble at Indianola, Mississippi, is one of those unfortunate affairs which cannot result in any good, which must result in much harm, and which illustrates what has been shown thousands of times, that there is a very imperfect mutual understanding between the sections of this country. Mr. Roosevelt has probably never done anything in all his official career from more conscientious motives, or about which he feels greater moral satisfaction. On the other hand he has never done anything more childishly foolish. Northern people generally do not understand, and many of them do not wish to understand, the relations subsisting between whites and blacks in the South. The writer has heard a learned professor in a great Northern college rave like a madman in speaking of the separate coach law of many Southern states. He did not see and did not wish to see that it is purely a police measure in the interest of peace. He did not see nor wish to see that it is no abridgement of personal liberty or civic equality. He could not be made to believe that if the coaches for blacks are not as good and well kept as those for whites it is because the blacks are too indifferent about it to complain to the courts. In his own state, as the writer took occasion to remind him, a man might not appear on the streets dressed in woman's clothes or a woman in man's clothes—regulations of a purely police nature, in the interest of peace and public morals and in no sense intended to abridge personal rights or to discriminate between the sexes in their equality before the law.

The cause of the feeling between the races in those particulars in which there is any feeling and the merits of the controversy are not Mr. Roosevelt's affair. If he were at the head of some great business and had a foreman who could not get along with his men, no matter if he thought the men were wrong and the foreman right, he would get rid of him. If he were a teacher in a country school and, as an abstract proposition, had ever so little patience with a boy's "code of honor," he would nevertheless respect it and make the best of a situation as he found it, if he was worthy of the position. If the appointment of either blacks or whites to certain official positions to which they are eligible by their merits, in any section of the country, causes friction and trouble, it would seem to be the part of wisdom, especially in a government supposed to be by the will of the people, to avoid such appointments. This is precisely what Mr. Roosevelt would do in the conduct of his private business, unless he has much less intelligence than even his enemies give him credit for. There are vast regions in the North where no such race feeling exists, so they say; and he might appoint thousands and tens of thousands of his colored friends to comfortable positions from Maine to Oregon, without arousing any objection, probably. It is nonsense to object that they cannot be transplanted. The office seeker is a nomad and will go anywhere. Some have been known to go as far as the Philippines—even tender youths and gentle maidens, to teach the black, brown, yellow, rind-streaked and striped wards of our republic, the sweet charity of our benevolent assimilation. Yes, they would go, willingly; duty would add its persuasion to interest. For who does not remember that just after the war thousands of Northern men were found who were willing to leave their happy homes and go down South to hold office for the people there while they were doing something else more pressing. The South preserves this gracious generosity in tender memory and would be charmed to reciprocate the favor.

Under the heading, "William Allen White is solid at the White House," a metropolitan paper goes on to say: "President Roosevelt, who is his close and admiring friend, regards White as one of the ablest writers in his line the country has produced." The president doubtless arrived at this conclusion after a deep study of Mr. White's article in the December McClure's on "The done Roosevelt."

The allies have come to one decision that they will maintain the blockade of Venezuela's ports during the sitting of the House.

THE CLAY AMENDMENT.

Hon. Green Clay, father of the late Rhodes Clay, permitted the people of Audrain county to elect him to the legislature as his son's successor in order that he might continue the agitation for revision of our state revenue laws. It is his purpose to introduce a bill to submit a constitutional amendment permitting the legislature to provide for the separation of taxable property into two classes, one of which will be subject to state taxes only, and one to local taxes only. One of the prime considerations which render such separation desirable is the great inequality of assessed valuations of the same kinds of property in different counties. One county is much in debt. It needs large revenues. It fears to publish too high a tax rate, and hence has recourse to high valuation. The state accepts this valuation as the basis of state assessments and thus this county pays more state taxes than it ought to pay.

The precise provisions of Mr. Clay's amendment have not been made public, but it will provide for the raising of all the state revenues by exclusive taxes on franchises, corporation licenses, etc., and by an inheritance tax. It will doubtless be similar to the law which has been in operation for several years in Pennsylvania and the one which has been in operation in New York since 1901.

There has been a great deal of thought expended in the last few years on the subject of equalization of taxes. It is hoped that Mr. Clay's amendment or some similar amendment may receive favorable consideration and that thus we may escape the agitation which otherwise is sure soon to become general for an entire revision of the constitution.

MR. HASELTINE'S LETTER.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found a letter written to the INTELLIGENCER for publication by Hon. S. A. Haseltine, of Springfield. Mr. Haseltine spoke in Lexington during the campaign and his remarks were well received. From certain phrases and incidental expressions in this letter rather than from any intended declaration, it seems likely that the editor of this paper differs very radically with Mr. Haseltine upon some fundamental principles of finance. These phrases and expressions, sound very much like those of the flat greenbackers of the late '70's and early '80's. And while this question is one of no interest now, the editor wishes to say once for all that he does not believe that a nation can create anything by fiat of law, or an individual by a stroke of the pen, except a future responsibility.

But the real subject of Mr. Haseltine's letter is the Fowler bill, and upon this subject we are one. There can be adduced no argument in support of bank asset currency which may not be urged with better reason in favor of permitting farmers to issue a credit currency based upon land values clear of improvements. That the Fowler law would contribute an element of flexibility to the currency there can be no doubt; and that flexibility is, under proper conditions, a desirable quality. In the circulating medium of a nation goes without saying. But the degree of desirableness depends very materially upon who regulates the influences that bring about the contraction and expansion of this flexible medium. The government is anxious to get out of the banking business. Both parties would be glad to throw upon commerce the burden of supplying its own vital fluid. The problem of birking responsibility is as old as the problem of sin, and is indeed a part of it. When men cease to believe that there is some way to carry a sack on horseback without the weight falling on the horse, we may be bold to say the millennium is at hand.

THE PACKERS' COMBINE.

Special Commissioner I. H. Kinley, appointed to take testimony in the ouster proceedings instituted by Attorney General Crow, has made his report to the supreme court of Missouri, in which he finds that all the large packing houses in the state have been for the past three years operating under an agreement to fix prices and obtain railroad rebates. The conduct of this organization has been very similar to that of the Standard Oil Company and the final end of it must be the same, unless the people see fit to strangle it at whatever cost. The centralization of industries works so many conveniences that apologists are sure to arise whenever these institutions are attacked; and in a conflict between an organized oligarchy of the great capitalists of industry and the disor-

ganized masses of toilers, the issue is ordinarily fore-doomed.

In the case of the packers' combine, if the best were done that could be done under the proceedings instituted against them, no more serious harm would come to the packers than the loss of their charters and a fine. "They could reorganize and secure charters in any other state in the union without moving the plants. The state might then forbid to them the use of its common carriers, just as lawless and harmful institutions are forbidden the use of the mails; but when the 'original package' decision is recalled it seems doubtful whether the courts would sustain such a law.

The truth is in this case 'and in all the other cases of trust and tariff oppression, the people are suffering for the want of a surgical operation, but they are unwilling to stand the pain. Eighty per cent of the people would favor heroic treatment tomorrow if they could pass through the ordeal under the influence of an anæsthetic. But political anæsthesia, says Mr. Roosevelt, is a close professional secret of the 'friends of the tariff' and the friends of the trusts. And it seems to be so.

THE STEEL TRUST SCHEME.

The steel trust has gone into philanthropy as a business. The new year surprise to which it has treated its employees is a proposition to permit all the workers in the concern to become stockholders in the ratio of their annual earnings and to share in the profits whether stockholders or not when the net earnings exceed \$80,000,000. This proposition will excite much admiration in certain quarters. There are 165,000 employees in the steel trust—all voters. If all become stockholders, they would be "friends of the tariff," interested in perpetuating the present order of things. 165,000 voters come right handy sometimes. This is all easily understood. But why the steel trust should wish to share its earnings is a more difficult question. Just why the trust should wish to give up one one-hundredth of all earnings in excess of 33 1/3 per cent on what was paid for the plants, according to the sworn statements of Schwab and Frick, is past comprehension. Mr. Carnegie has conscientious scruples about dying rich: perhaps J. P. Morgan has been converted to the belief that anything more than 33 1/3 per cent is usurious.

OUTGENERATED.

England has for so long a time sustained such high reputation for statecraft and diplomacy that it is hard to believe her outgeneraled by Germany in the Venezuelan matter. But such seems to have been the case. Plainly England entered into the bargain with the thought of collecting debts in some manner not objectionable to the United States, and plainly Germany intended all along to test the strength of our attachment to the Monroe Doctrine. England has more territory now than she can colonize or successfully govern, and certainly does not wish to be a cats-paw to provide for the territorial aggrandizements of her European rival. Within the past five years England has come to look upon the Monroe Doctrine as quite as valuable to her as to us; and it would not be surprising if, within the next five years, she makes formal acknowledgment of it. Canada is a perpetual hostage of England's good faith in according to the Monroe Doctrine as if to a recognized international convention. All the bitterness over this matter is in Germany.

An exchange is wrestling with the long defunct issue of convict labor on public roads. The writer has grave doubts about the justice of competition between such labor and "honest labor." Of all the vain quibbles that have in times past disturbed men's minds this appears to be the most futile. Is the public wealth increased more by their idleness or their labor? And is it not better that they should be compelled to contribute to the public wealth than that the public should have to contribute to their support? When our exchange settles this matter to its satisfaction, it will be at leisure to take up that other burning question, as to whether a great snow blockade is not a public blessing in that it furnishes employment, or whether the invention of machines is not a curse in that laborers are thus thrown out of work.

A New York financial syndicate has offered to lend Venezuela the money to pay Germany and England. The Monroe doctrine is not supposed to stand in the way of Uncle Sam as a collection agent.

County Court Proceedings.

School mortgage of Jas. W. McCormack ordered satisfied.

OFFICERS' BONDS APPROVED.

Clem Tyree, Recorder; W. H. Edwards, Treasurer; Jas. P. Chinn, Ex-Officio Clerk Probate Court. Chas. Barron, coal oil inspector.

ABATEMENTS ON ACCOUNT OF ERRONEOUS ASSESSMENTS, ETC.

T. S. Chandler allowed to pay personal taxes for 1902 at a valuation of \$95.

Taxes of S. E. Perry on 10 acres in Sec. 5-56-27 for 1900 and prior years abated.

Jno. C. Young, Sr. allowed to pay taxes for 1901 and prior years without interest.

Mrs. Kate G. Bishop allowed to pay taxes on part of lot 7, block 17, 1st edition to Lexington for 1903, at a valuation of \$800.

Taxes on lots 7 to 12 inclusive, block 4 St. Thomas' addition to Waverly 1902, and prior years abated.

Taxes on lots 3 to 4, block 4, Buckingham's addition to Lexington for 1902 and prior years abated.

Plattenburg & Co. allowed to pay taxes on lot 7, block 5, Buckingham's addition to Lexington for 1902 and prior years at a valuation of \$5.00.

Taxes of Kittle Graham, on lots 13 and 14, block 5, Davis' addition to Lexington for 1902 and prior years abated.

J. J. O'Malley allowed to pay personal taxes for 1902 on \$575.

Annie Clark allowed to pay taxes for 1901 and back, on lots 6, 7, 10 and 11, block 65, first addition, valuation \$800.

W. A. Whitsett allowed to pay personal taxes for 1902, valuation of \$1,330.

Personal taxes of Alex. Doero, (col.) for 1901 and prior years abated.

JURIES.

The following named gentlemen were drawn as a petit jury for the February term of criminal court, which meets February 9, 1903:

Clay Township—James Stradtman, Joe Krutzinger and A. O. Hook.

Davis Township—E. W. Holland, Alfred Downing and David F. Pilegar.

Dover Township—A. W. Smith, H. Thee and John Ham.

Freedom Township—E. S. Warrenbrock, Thos. Walsh and Chas. Hoppeiman.

Lexington Township—F. T. Bates, Paul Reinhardt and Geo. Wertz.

Washington Township—D. A. Reed, W. W. Gordy and R. W. Cowell.

Middleton Township—C. B. Hall, A. B. Slusher and Judge Riley.

Sni-a-bar Township—John C. Carroll, Wm. W. Williamson and Wm. Sullens.

Jury for April term of circuit court at Higginsville:

Clay Township—Ed Campbell, R. P. Evans and O. C. Null.

Davis Township—J. S. Santmeyer, Samuel Wagner and E. S. Anderson.

Dover Township—Wm. Dysart, James Winn and M. V. B. Oliver.

Freedom Township—Ernest Dyer, J. W. Thomas and B. C. Shelton.

Lexington Township—G. W. Shull, James Spurlock and Chas. Tuebner.

Middleton Township—Jos. Fletcher, Geo. Burnett and I. W. Cauthorn.

Sni-a-bar Township—Wm. Alfred, Charles Cox and E. L. Ryland.

Washington Township—Wm. Weaver, W. B. Buford and Thos. J. Norfleet.

Appointment of S. B. Thornton, deputy clerk approved.

Mary Minton (white) and Evan Crutchbush (col.) adjudged insane and committed to asylum No. 1 at Fulton.

Joe S. Prewitt appointed Justice of the Peace of Davis Township to fill vacancy.

At the request of the city council of Higginsville, the further use of the circuit court room at that place by the band is denied.

\$1,500 transferred from contingent fund and \$458.75 from criminal cost fund to the poor fund.

The work of draining 15,000 acres of Ray county swamp land has been started. J. E. Rogers & Co., of Illinois, have the contract and a dredge boat 80x26 feet was built for work. It has powerful machinery and a modern electric light plant, so that work will go on at night as well as day. The dredge has a capacity of 2,000 cubic yards of dirt a day. The canal will be twelve miles long, as it is expected it can be completed within a year. The lateral ditches aggregate forty miles in length. The farmers in the drainage district expect the land to be worth \$100 dollars an acre when reclaimed.

Married, at Corder, Mo., January 1, Mr. Charles C. Dyer and Miss Ella Hartman, both of Higginsville, Rev. Ginn officiating.

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BEN HUR COMING.

The Great Spectacle To Be Seen in Kansas City.

The principal topic of interest and conversation just now is the famous spectacle "Ben Hur," which is well known to all, and which is coming to Kansas City for a fortnight at the Willis Wood Theatre, commencing Monday, January 12th. This will be welcome news to all in this vicinity as it now brings within our reach an opportunity of witnessing the greatest and most impressive religio-historic drama of modern times. Special accommodation and reduced rates will be arranged on all roads leading to Kansas City during this important week and everything is being done to provide for the accommodation of out-of-town patrons.

The production which comes to Kansas City is the same original Klaw and Erlanger organization which was seen in Chicago and St. Louis last year with the same cast, scenery, equipment, horses, camels and ornate electrical effects. It is a sermon of varied speech, illustrated by art and music. The purpose of the drama and dramatist is wholly good and the play begins most adroitly, yet reverently.

There are few bars of music—serving the same purpose as a voluntary before divine service—and when the curtain rises, it discloses the illimitable waste of desert; the tired camels; the three wise men gathered from Greece, from Egypt, from Hindustan, to greet the appearance of the star, "a focus of dazzling luster." His star proclaims His birth. The play opens with His birth and closes with hosannas and rejoicings over the last miracles He was to perform before His pointed end.

Following the prelude comes the brilliantly colored pictures of the house tops of Jerusalem, the terrace of the palace of Herod. Next is one of the great scenes of the play—the dim interior of the Roman galley ship—the muscular, grim visaged slaves tugging in rhythmic motion at the oars. Then the wreck, with Ben Hur and his captain struggling in the waves.

Then comes the thrilling and realistic effects ever presented on the stage—the great chariot race. A rumble is heard in the background, the hurrying clatter of horses' hoofs and then the race is disclosed. Two Roman chariots, each drawn by four horses, form the centre of the marvellous picture. The animals with far stretched necks and dilated nostrils run like mad, urged on by the whips of the charioteers—Ben Hur and his enemy, Messala. The wheels of the chariots rumble and sway. Now Ben Hur is ahead, now Messala, then Ben Hur and the race is ended.

The last scene is one of fitting beauty and impressiveness, revealing the Mount of Olives, where a great multitude gather to greet the Nazarene and where the Savior performs the miracle of cleansing the lepers. Christ's personality is never represented in the flesh but his presence is indicated by a ray of marvellous brilliancy which is reflected by a shaft of pure white light from the halo over his head.

To present the marvellous spectacle, no less than 350 people are required. In the chariot race eight horses are used, while four more are kept in training for emergencies.

"Ben Hur" will remain in Kansas City but two weeks and the advance sale of seats opens Thursday morning, January 8th, at nine o'clock. The management of the Willis-Wood Theatre announces that all out of town orders, if accompanied by cash or money order, will be filled before the regular box office sale opens.

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